

Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook

Forecast:

- Normal fire potential is expected in Alaska for the remainder of the winter. With snow covering most of the state, Alaska is out of fire season.

Factors:

- The winter's snowfall has not been particularly heavy across Alaska, and while the US Drought Monitor shows no areas of Alaska in drought status, portions of the Interior and Northwest Alaska are categorized as “abnormally dry” as of late January.
- The Climate Prediction Center's forecast for snowfall through the remainder of the winter and into early spring calls for drier than normal conditions to be likely over South Central Alaska and the Panhandle, while wetter weather is expected over Northwest Alaska. The current La Niña global weather pattern, which typically brings drier winters to southern Alaska, is expected to weaken by summer.
- Fuels are currently snow-covered and frozen. The spring melt cycle and the amount of snow that falls between now and early April will determine spring fuel conditions.



With the winter's permanent snowpack established over burnable areas, Alaska is out of fire season and conditions are expected to be normal through May. The first wildfires of the season typically begin in April along population corridors as wind-driven grass fires at lower elevations. As the season advances into May, wildfires become possible at higher elevations with the continued melting of the snowpack.